



# **National Transportation Safety Board Factual Data Collection Report of Accident**

**LAX07CA187**

Aircraft Reg No: N246AM  
Most Critical Injury: Serious

**Location/Time**

Nearest City/Place: Winston, MT  
Occurrence Date: 06/03/2007  
Occurrence Time: 1045 MDT

**Flight Itinerary**

Last Depart. Point: Townsend, MT  
Destination: Local Flight

**Aircraft Information**

Type of Aircraft: Airplane (not Homebuilt)  
Make/Model: Aviat / Husky A1-B  
Serial Number: 2246  
Landing Gear: Tailwheel  
Engine Type: Reciprocating  
Engine Make/Model: Lycoming / O-360-A1P  
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed  
Aircraft Fire: Ground

**Operator Information**

Registered Acft Owner: Jon C Kantorowicz  
Operator of Aircraft: Jon C Kantorowicz  
Operator Address: Great Falls, MT  
Reg. Flt. Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

**Weather**

Condition of Light: Day  
Wx Cond. at Site: Visual Conditions

**First Pilot Information**

Cert(s)/Rating(s): Private; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

**Flight Time (Hours)**

Instrument Ratings: Airplane  
Medical Cert: Class 3  
Date of Last Med. Exam: 05/2006

Total All Aircraft: 1070  
Total Make/Model: 370

**Injury Summary**

|      | <u>Fatal</u> | <u>Serious</u> | <u>Minor/None</u> |
|------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Crew | 0            | 2              | 0                 |
| Pass | 0            | 0              | 0                 |

**Narrative**

\*\*\* This investigation is based on information furnished by the Pilot/Operator. Additional details may be found in the Form 6120.1\*\*\*

The pilot was participating in a mountain flying seminar and was flying with a CFI. They departed Townsend Airport, Montana, at 1015. The purpose of the flight was instructional in nature intended to practice short canyon turns. The pilot proceeded northwest in search of a suitable canyon. They flew the first canyon at 300 feet agl, 70 mph, 20 degrees of flaps, along the south side of the canyon, and rode a few thermals. Identifying areas where thermal lift could be found was part of the instructional flight. He then crossed into another canyon that was full of burned terrain and dead fall trees. This canyon he flew at 300 to 350 feet agl, 60 to 65 mph, and full flaps. The pilot angled his plane towards a rock cliff expecting to pickup thermal lift from the warm rocks. He flew with the wing tip about 10 feet from the cliff. The climb stopped, the airspeed fell off, and the wing stalled. He turned left, applied full throttle, and lowered the nose of the airplane. The descent was rapid as he tried to direct the airplane between deadfall trees into a drainage gully. The airplane's descent continued and he tried to land the airplane as gently as he could. After the collision with the sloped terrain, both pilots egressed the airplane just before it was engulfed in flames. The pilot stated that the airplane and engine had no mechanical failures or malfunctions during the flight.